Telephone:
EUSton 1480

Open 12 noon till 11-30 p.m. including Sunday

Specialises in
Indian and Pakistani Dishes

A Visit Will Pay You!

SHAH RESTAURANT

124 Drummond Street, London, N.W.1.
(Gower Street Corner)

Buses: 14, 18b, 24, 27, 29, 30, 39, 73, 134

February ★ 1955

CARIBBEAN NEWS 6d.

Sister of British Queen Tours Caribbean

Watch for Caribbean News round-up of the tour in our next issue

Jamaican Voters Sweep Busta out

But Manley no better

AFTER a period of ten years, 'chief' Busta has been ousted from his job as 'Chief Minister' of Her Majesty's Jamaican Government. His cousin and rival, Norman Manley, Q.C., now takes his place by virtue of winning a majority of 18 out of 32 seats in the House of Representatives. Bustamante's J.L.P. won the other 14 seats.

The result was no surprise to those who were watching the situation, for Busta was more and more exposing himself for what he is—a firm supporter of imperialism — a 'loyal Kikuyu'.

Manley is expected to be no better insofar as the people's conditions are concerned, as his party, the P.N.P., also relies on the benevolence of imperialism. The P.N.P. cannot be compared with the militant P.P.P. of British Guiana. And since expelling the left-wing of the party, the policies of the right-wing have gained more and more as reflected in their electoral programme put out shortly before elections.

Although this programme includes some reforms such as the 45-hour week, annual leave with pay, etc., it is very vague on other main issues. It says in effect that workers must be prepared to accept low wages so as to attract new industries.

Mr. Manley immediately rushed off to New York and got the services of a member of the Cadbury family (big business) to start attracting foreign capital.

As our Jamaican correspondent reports, this victory for the P.N.P. is essentially the result of disgust with Bustamante. And now Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition has a go.

[In the next issue, "Caribbean News" will give readers a thorough first hand analysis of the elections.]

Ferdinand Smith, President of the Jamaica Federation of Trades Unions, was interviewed by the Editor on the Jamaican Elections.
See report on page 5.

Big Business is backing new horse

KINGSTON, Jamaica.

THE big imperialists are fast deserting Alexander Bustamante and his Jamaica Labour Party as all the political signs show impending defeats in the General Elections. (This bulletin was sent before the Elections on January 12.)

The Bustamante Industrial Trade Union has found it necessary to call strikes on the Jamaica Match Factory and after three weeks' stoppage, the workers went back with a fraction of their demands.

The Sugar Manufacturers' Association has rebuffed his Union's request for negotiations on the coming crop.

In a recent P.N.P. publication, devoted entirely to praising Manley, almost every leading firm took advertising space in this book. One whole page was taken by R. Hanna & Sons as "an expression of our appreciation

continued on page 4

Read all about

LIFE IN THE SOVIET UNION

in this magnificent magazine

48 BIG PAGES

every month!

SCORES OF PHOTOGRAPHS —MANY IN COLOUR

Annual Subscription 15/-

COLLET'S BOOKSHOPS

44 & 45 Museum Street, London, W.C.1

New Spirit in Guiana

"THE spirit of the Guianese people is higher now than at the time of the withdrawal of the Constitution." This was the view expressed by Mr. Ashton Chase, former Minister of Labour in the P.P.P. Government, when he spoke to the Executive Committee of the Caribbean Labour Congress in London on January 7th.

The Robertson Commission's Report, he thought, was a clever attempt to split the P.P.P. on the basis of ideology and race. It sought to divide the party into who are socialists and who are communists, with personal references.

"But we don't intend to back pedal. We'll go forward no matter what ideologies there are, on the basis of unity."

Mr. Chase drew attention to the belief that the P..PP. moved too fast in office. But the people pushed the movement forward. he said. No leadership could have held back, because the leaders stood by the people.

A very moving note was struck when Mr. Chase described how Guianese went about with a new feeling.

(continued on page 2)

Strike action wins in Trinidad

OVER3,500 sugar workers scored a resounding victory over the Sugar Manufacturers' Federation of Trinidad in the 7-week Trinidad sugar strike which commenced on November 2nd.

The managements of three Tate & Lyle estates caved in on December 13th and agreed to negotiate with the Federation of Canefarmers and Sugar Workers about full recognition for the workers' Federation, after which 1,400 workers returned to work. On December 21st, the Tate & Lyle group granted full recognition to the Union.

Negotiations for full recognition on the other estates commenced on Tuesday, December 28th. The Employers' Federation had proposed recognition for a scab union. This the workers rejected.

Meanwhile, Port of Spain suffered temporary break downs because of a strike of 250 electricity distribution workers at the Port of Spain Corporation Electricity Board. The workers struck for back pay owed them since 1952, which they have now won.

They were promised back pay from January 1954 on December 18th. When this money was not paid they struck on the 20th. The men adopted the slogan 'No Back-pay, NO Lights'.

Governor Hubert Rance declared a state of emergency in Port of Spain at 8 p.m. on December 22nd. The Governor's action came after the striking electricity distribution workers unanimously rejected the Board's terms to return to work at their meeting in Woodford Square.

★ EDITORIAL ★

W.I. Immigration

NEARLY every day when we look at the newspapers in Britain we can see articles, news items and editorials about the West Indian immigrants.

Some of these reports are factual and correct, others are true only in parts, while in many cases they are used for veiled attacks against West Indians, building up fear and prejudice in the British people for West Indians.

It is undoubtedly true that the insecurity felt by the British people over problems of housing and jobs in the future, inflamed by the Press by scare stories of West Indian immigration, is leading to increased prejudice.

In face of this, West Indians in Britain, both collectively in the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) and as individuals, have a big job and duty to their country to explain our point of view to the British people.

We take the view that it is the British imperialist government which is responsible for our conditions of life at home.

This is so because the British Government sits at the top of our country controlling our political life telling us what we should or should not do. Witness the case of Guiana when for the first time a really people's government was elected.

We are not fooled by the setting up in some of our territories of individuals called 'Premiers' or 'Chief Ministers'. They are only allowed to continue because they do not effectively oppose the imperialist exploitation of our people and wealth by big companies which draw off our bauxite, oil, sugar, rum, and other products.

Some newspapers and people have been calling for 'development' of the West Indies to provide employment and better standards at home, to prevent our people coming to Britain.

Certainly this is what West Indians want. To be able to stay at home in our warm climate and enrich our land and lives.

The reason they leave home is because these strivings are stifled by the imperialist dominated colonial economy.

Yes, development is what we want. But these newspapers conceive of 'development' while still holding us as colonies, as sources of cheap raw materials, cheap labour, and as markets for industrial goods.

In other words, they want to draw off pints and pints of our blood and when we look emaciated inject back a few drops into our system to 'develop' us.

That is the reason put very simply why imperialist 'development' cannot work to our benefit.

The only basic solution to our problems is to end this exploitation of the colonial system and set up an independent federated West Indies.

However, while we remain subject to the British imperialists we have every right to be in Britain and to expect equality of opportunity. But this entails certain obligations on our part, and foremost among these is that as workers we MUST be members of our trade unions and play our part in unity with our British brothers as good trade unionists.

In this way we show fellow workers that we are not here to undercut them or do them out of a job.

This is our strongest point, if we are seen to be good trade unionists, and we must use it to the full to break down the prejudices which arise through fear that the coloured worker is a competitor.

A question uppermost in the mind of the British worker is: What will happen in the case of mass unemployment?

Well the answer is that the hundred thousand coloured workers (0.2 per cent. of the population) would not be nearly as much a threat as the mass of unorganised, non-trade unionists British workers themselves.

The solution is unity of black and white workers in the fight against the system which produces unemployment—capitalism, and unity to protect their conditions against the common enemy—the bosses.

Federation

FOR many years now the need for unity of the West Indian people through Federation has been expressed through democratic organisations of the people, such as the Caribbean Labour Congress.

And for so many years the people's will has been thwarted. But eventually Whitehall put forward in the Rance Report proposals for a glorified-crown-colony federation. This they hope to carry through some time next year.

And to give our readers the full story, the Secretary of the C.L.C. (London Branch) is writing a series of three articles on Federation beginning with this issue.

British oil workers join hands with colonial workers in freedom struggle

REPORT OF MEETING OF 1/819 (Oil Workers) Branch, TRANSPORT AND GENERAL WORKERS' UNION held on TUESDAY, 7th DECEMBER, 1954.—LONDON.

SUBJECT: "ARE COLOURED WORKERS A DANGER TO TRADE UNIONS?"

ATTENDANCE: Stewards and members from Shell Mex, Regent Oil Co., Vacuum Oil Co., Esso Petroleum, Fina Petroleum and repair centres, with visitors from Stockwell L.T.E. 'Bus Garage, and the President of the Caribbean Labour Congress.

Mr. R. CHANDISINGH, President of the Caribbean Labour Congress, stated that there had been many misleading reports in the daily Press. There had been some 25,000 coloured workers in this country during the war, serving in the forces, etc., and that this number was reaching 100,000.

They did not willingly stay in this country as there were many obvious disadvantages in so doing. They were compelled to come to this country owing to mass unemployment in the Colonies. In Jamaica, one person in three were unemployed. Whilst most basic commodities were as dear as in Britain, and in some instances dearer, many were existing on a daily budget of 5d. per head.

On the other hand there existed great commercial wealth, as for example Jamaica supplied 90% of the world's stock of Bauxite and received only 1/- per ton royalties, as against the world market price of £3 per ton. There were also great supplies of sugar, gold and oil.

In Trinidad seven British companies last year made over £10,000,000 profit. There was a Trade movement which had grown since the war years, but this had not been handled properly by our T.U.C. who had aided splitting tactics, and the World Federation of Trade Unions was not on a proper basis.

BUSMEN'S CASE

STOCKWELL 'BUS GARAGE representatives stated that they sympathised with the case put forward for the coloured workers, and that there had been a number of lies published in the Daily Press about the attitude of the Stockwell 'Busmen.

There had NEVER been a threat to strike against employment of coloured workers, and no colour bar had been exercised. The Stockwell 'Bus Branch dispute with the L.T.E. was over the issue of consultation first.

They insisted that as on every other question of employment, the Union should be consulted first, and that the L.T.E. has broken the agreement on this matter of procedure. The Stockwell 'Bus Branch had attempted to persuade the Press to make corrections of reports without success.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION & REPLY

Points ranging from "Could coloured workers be used to break a strike?" "How do coloured workers manage to buy houses in this country?" and "How could we as Trade Unionists help the coloured workers?" were dealt with as follows:

In a strike with the millions of Trade Unionists in this country, the 100,000 coloured people, which included children, could hardly represent a danger, especially as many of them were in a Trade Union themselves. There was probably a greater danger from the scores of thousands of Slav so-called refugees brought into this country for political motives.

It was necessary to insist that coloured workers join a Trade Union, and for it to be understood that it was in the interests of both White and Coloured workers to work side by side.

Whilst the West Indies remain as part of the British Commonwealth, and whilst these colonial peoples were refused independence, they were entitld to the same rights as any other member of the Commonwealth.

Such questions as that of buying houses existed only in special cases, and was not a colour question. Demands should be made to the Government to permit the people of the West Indies to be employed in their own country by self-Government and exploitation of the wealth of the Colonies for the benefit of the coloured peoples.

The meeting then AGREED to the following resolution:—

"That this meeting convened by the 1/819 Branch of the T. & G.W.U. recognises the common struggle of the British working class and the Colonial workers coming into this country, and calls for unity in the fight for freedom of all Colonial peoples."

LETTER BOX

"Caribbean News":

The New York Public Library is one of the world's great reference libraries. In maintaining and developing its collections, the Library depends on the generosity of authors, publishers, institutions, and individual donors. Your consideration of the following request will be greatly appreciated.

Please send a sample copy.

(Signed) J. W. Henderson,
Chief, Acquisition Branch, preparation Division, New York Public Library.

The Editor,

As a reader, I have been carefully studying the news and articles in the "Caribbean News", and to my opinion it is one of the best periodicals at the present earnestly championing the cause of the "slow progressive people", applying the phrase of capitalism.

I always obtain my copy every month from Collett's Bookshop. I think other West Africans do the same. I am suggesting that it would be for the interest of the "Caribbean News" to increase its obligation to the colonies in West Africa.

This article is about the recent development in Nigeria, and if it pleases the editor to use it, he could do so without any obligation or payment. It is my contribution towards a cause for which we are fighting.

(Signed) N. A. Ologbosere.

[Mr. Ologbosere's article on Nigeria is being considered for future publication.—Ed.]

TRANSPORT AND GENERAL WORKERS' UNION,
General Secretary: Arthur Deakin, C.H., C.B.E.
1/819 (W. London Oil) Branch.

15th December, 1954.

The Editor,

Enclosed herewith please find copy of condensed report of the meeting of the above branch at which your Mr. Chandisingh spoke.

I have been directed to convey to you the unanimous vote of thanks that was passed at this meeting, on the splendid statement put forward by your representative.

With very best wishes,
Yours fraternally,

(Signed) A. E. GILES,
1/819 Branch Secretary.

[See above mentioned report on this page.]

New Spirit from page 1

holding their heads high in confidence and with a spirit of dignity—since the P.P.P. had opened new vistas to them.

"Whenever there is an election, there will be overwhelming victory for the P.P.P."

[In the next issue of "Caribbean News", Mr. Ashton Chuase writes a special article on Trade Unions in Guiana.]

BOOK WORLD

The Emigrants

By George Lamming (Michael Joseph, 15/-).

THE author of this book was born in Barbados, and before he came to England in 1950 was teaching French and English in a Trinidad Boarding school.

After his arrival in England he worked for some months in a variety of London factories, until in 1951 he began a weekly broadcast of book and film reviews for the B.B.C.'s Overseas service. His poems have also been broadcast. One other published work by him "In the Castle of My Skin" deals with life in Barbados.

George Lamming is, therefore, a Barbadian. But in "The Emigrants" there are signs that he is aware of the West Indies as a whole, and should indeed, be called a "West Indian".

The first part of his book is a powerfully written account of a voyage to England from the West Indies and his characters could be any of the West Indians who have recently arrived in England.

★

On the way over the travellers get together in small groups and talk of their life at home, and why they are leaving.

Some are made uneasy by a warning from one among them, who had served in the R.A.F., that England was not a land flowing with milk and honey and that a welcome would not await them — that it was hard to find a place to live and get a job. Others put their hopes on learning a trade, being qualified and some were just optimistic.

By the end of the voyage, they were bound together in the belief that whatever island they hailed from, that their interests were identical, and the realisation that primarily they are West Indians and that a real bond is established between them. The ultimate tragic disillusionment which awaits the travellers, is unhappily an experience known to too many.

Josephine Florent

A Guide to the Law

UNDER the British system, anything is supposed to be lawful which is not expressly forbidden. But do you know what these 'forbidden' things are which you are likely to incur by walking down the street, attending a meeting, taking part in a poster parade, running a lottery, selling literature from door to door, or a host of other things you may meet in the course of your everyday life?

Well, these questions are answered admirably in a little booklet called **"Handbook of Citizens' Rights"** published by the National Council for Civil Liberties at the low price of 2/6d.

Described as "a guide to the law for the man in the street", this book sets out very simply to tell you or me just what we are legally entitled to do in pocketing, collecting money for charity, leaving or entering the country, in conducting meetings, processions, etc. It tells us what our rights are if arrested, on the limitations of the police to search us or our homes and lots of other matters of everyday importance.

★

We are told for example in the case of "eviction" that "If a landlord turns out his tenant or locks him out, the police have no right to intervene unless there is a threat of violence or other reason to anticipate a breach of the peace." And usually the police do not interfere, but "nevertheless, they are sometimes persuaded to look into the matter and take one side or the other . . . and the N.C.C.L. has had evidence of one or two cases where the police have, unfortunately, tended to take sides against coloured tenants."

No one should be without this excellent little book which can be bought at bookshops or direct from the N.C.C.L., 46, Westbourne Grove, London, W.2.

'The youngest musicians in the world' — Mr. Christian

THE YOUNGEST GROUP OF LITERATE MUSICIANS OF ALL TIME — this is the claim made by Mr. L. M. Christian of Dominica for his five children, ranging in ages from 4 to 9 years.

Mr. Christian himself is an excellent guitarist and he has taught all his kids even before they could read or spell, to find the keys of the musical instrument.

As if in anticipation, all the children are named after famous musicians. PEGANINI, the eldest girl (9 years) plays the mandolin. HANDEL, the 8-year old boy, plays the flute. Then PURCEL, at 7 years, is a talented violinist. PALESTRINA, whose picture is reproduced below is the pianist of the family, and she's just 5 years.

Palestrina Christian, the pianist of the family, and only 5 years old.

The youngest child, VERDI, a girl of 4, already knows many musical characters.

Press reports rate the family very highly.

The "Antigua Star" says: "There is no question that this group of musicians has shown great proficiency in the standards they have reached for which both they and their parents merit the highest commendation."

And the "Dominica Chronicle" has this to say: ' . . . the thoughts of everyone present were centred on this talented family and foresee a brilliant future for them, especially if the necessary help is forthcoming."

Brilliant future

Yes, a brilliant future awaits these children, but there is a limit to what can be done in the small island of Dominica, where opportunities for development are lacking, a sad commentary on the British imperialist domination of the West Indies.

The Christian family needs financial assistance to continue the further education of the children, to develop their talents fully.

They have already made a start to help themselves to raise money for a fund for the children's musical education by giving concerts in Dominica and neighbouring islands. But the small populations and attendances at these concerts make this a difficult proposition.

Sponsored Tour

Mr. Christian's keenest ambition is for his musical family to be sponsored on a tour of Britain, giving concerts for the children's education.

Apart from claiming to be the youngest literate musicians, Mr. Christian claims to have the YOUNGEST LITERATE PIANISTS (5 years) IN THE WORLD. Let the world prove or disprove it."

He tells us in a letter: "We are applying to your society or through your society for SPONSORSHIP to exhibit the TRUTH and TALENT possessed by the children. We have no cash for travelling purposes, but if we are sponsored right through our shows can certainly refund the expenses incurred by us."

Here is certainly a challege that should be accepted for a good cause.

MORE MONEY . . . FOR MINISTERS

From our TRINIDAD Reporter

AT the opening of the present session of the Legislative Council, the Government followed the usual procedure of not completing the budget debate but of taking two other motions before it. In the course of this session, which is only a little over a month old, the Government increased the salaries of the Ministers and Members to new heights. A Minister will now receive $1,300 per month while members will receive $540 per month.

Delayed action

The Government brought a motion to give $2½ million to the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund and $2½ million to the Rehabilitation Fund for the use of the Sugar manufacturers only. The Manufacturers have taken 5.2 million from the Fund, leaving only about ¼ million despite the fact that this fund is intended for both manufacturers and canefarmers. When it appeared possible that the Government could be defeated, Ministers were alleged to have canvassed members, and in the long run Hon. Victor Bryan, who introduced the Government motion, threatened that the Government would, if defeated, report their defeat to the Governor for his action. This was a veiled threat of dissolution for which the so-called opposition fell.

The Government had its way by a 18—7 majority and then proceeded to second a private member's Bill calling for the establishment of a Constitution Reform Committee of the entire Council (nominated and elected) to consider constitution reform. None of the specific proposals made by nine elected members in a recent interview with the Governor was mentioned. The Committee is to sit and report as all Government Committees, at their leisure, without reference to time, i.e., September 1955 General Elections. Meanwhile the "Evening News" of Wednesday, 3rd, states that only the W.I.I.P. are likely to oppose this sell-out.

Democracy for Guiana and all West Indians

Join the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) and make your voice effective in a way that the Colonial Secretary will understand.

★ The C.L.C. stands for Independence for the West Indies and Federation.

★ It actively campaigns for these aims politically.

★ There are also activities to suit all interests — organised by the Social, Cultural, Youth, and Women's Committees.

★ Membership dues are 5/- per year payable either in one sum or in two instalments of 2/6d. each.

Register your indignation at Lyttelton's action against Guiana in a way that can help the campaign . . .

JOIN THE C.L.C. NOW AND STRENGTHEN THE FIGHT

Post to the Secretary, Caribbean Labour Congress (L.B.), 3 Robert Street, N.W.1.

I wish to become a member and enclose subscription of .....s. .....d. (5/- per year payable either in full or two sums of 2/6.)

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

FEDERATION for 1956?

By Billy Strachan

WHEN the Trinidad Iegislature approved the Whitehall plans for FEDERATION on December 10th., 1954, **GO AHEAD!** flashed in green lights in the Colonial Office in London.

Jamaica's Legislature had already approved the schemes on July 22nd of this year, St. Lucia in October, Dominica in November, St. Vincent and Grenada during 1953, and Barbados Legislature were already on record from June 1954.

FEDERATION sprung from the people, who mainly of African slave origin and Indian indentured labour, throughout the British occupied Caribbean were longing for allies in their isolated struggles for a mere existence. How many thousands have fled to solve their problems in vain, first in Venezuela as long ago as 1825, next in Panama, 1865, then1901; Cuba later; and the United States after World War I? Today it is birmingham, Liverpool, London and Manchester!

The communities abroad have all been conducive to common nationhood, London being a worthy illustration.

A Nation Robbed

The history of how the Imperial British Government robbed our desires and dressed them anew has already been written, even if not in full. Griffiths, Colonial Secretary following Creech-Jones in the days of the Labour Government, succeeded with social democratic sunning, where no self-confessed Tory could have dared.

Look back to whom they set to preside at our Closer Association Conference in Jamaica, 1947; Rance, demon of the people, Governor of Trinidad, played a creditable part on behalf of his Imperial masters. Then he sat back, to see his drafts rubber-stamped in London, April, 1953. The minor minnions could only move at their masters' wish. These careers only survive on the strength of British armed troops snuggled in the mountains of Jamaica, sunning on the mud-flats of Guiana, with battleship and cruiser traditionally transgressing our Spanish Main.

1956 will see the Federal Constitution of a British super-crown-colony parcelled and partly castrated, sprawled across the Caribbean. Bans on travel, Bans on reading, Bans on association, the hallmark of a colonial suppressed people!

Tentatively, the capital is proposed for St. George's GRENADA; quite unrealistic but only to cool the stifled jealousies of all the puppets, Gomes, Grantley Adams, Bustamante and Manley, who vie unceasingly to prove their loyalty to the British Buckra.

Fig-leaf Constitution

A Governor-General will preside; the principal instrument of policy shall be a Council of State with Eight Elected Members 'assisted' by **three** Officials employed to the British Crown and **three** Senators appointed by the Governor-General in Council.

The wholly Nominated Senate will remain with 19, pending the coercion of Guiana and Honduras with TWO each. The HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES will number 45, excluding Guiana and Honduras, made up thus:

Barbados	5	Trinidad and Tobago	10
Jamaica	17	Grenada	2
Antigua	2	St. Vincent	2
St. Kitts	2	St. Lucia	2
Montserrat	1	Dominica	2

Here is the skeleton.

Jamaica's legislature wanted some trifling ammendments to favour Peter for the brother Paul, Barbados Legislature slightly better found fault with the Capital situation, favouring Bridgetown but finally lined up to the Adams cammonds after a somewhat spirited debate. Trinidad's mixed House of Nominated and Elected members also gave quite a display of shadow boxing, while workers struck on the sugar estates for recognition and the electricity industry stood still for want of wages! In turn, they too fell in with two footling privisos:

(a) That the location for a capital be decided by the Federal Government.
(b) That a conference on immigration be called.

Onward!

But what of the WEST INDIANS? that is the people who love our land, have nourished it, sweated and shed blood in it. They who HATE the enemies who tramp with military might across the green fields, fire guided missiles from St. Lucia and Turks Islands or breed the germs to kill mankind between the American mainland and ourselves.

Their voice is clear. THEIR WISH IS SACRED. The people want Freedom, the people want BREAD, the people want Education, want the right and yet will win the right to self-determination.

To this end there are three priorities:
(a) The will to win,
(b) The ability to govern,
(c) The wherewithal to pay our way.

The first TWO are self-evident and require no comment; the last, used like the sword of Damocles hung poised above the heads of puny men who feared their brothers and thus themselves. They who fly to London, to and fro at our expense to do their master's bidding. Our answer is a simple one and will be dealt with next month under the title "OUR CARIBBEAN JEWELS".

No criticism for the 'chief'

BUSTA again in the recent Railway and General Post Office strikes must be compared with some of the charges made against Cheddi Jagan by the Imperialists.

Speaking to the railway strikers on December 5th, Mr. Bustamante gave the men an assurance that the re-grading would be made retroactively from April this year (1954)—which would be decided by the Executive Council on Tuesday, 7th.

In other words, Busta was making a promise which he was incapable of giving, as the House was in recess. He was therefore committing the new House and Executive to be formed after elections to a policy which he (Busta) had decided on beforehand.

This is the very type of accusation the imperialists would like to make against Cheddi Jagan of British Guiana.

In the strike of subordinate employees at the G.P.O. in Kingston, Busta went down and dictatorially issued an ultimatum to the workers who were members of the National Workers' Union, to return to work and later on had his ultimatum issued by the Executive Council—and, of course, Bustmante is life President of the B.I.T.U.—but there is not one word of criticism.

LABOUR PARTY POLICY ON COLONIES . . .

A Mist of Words

says Yussuf Hosein

TWENTY years ago the "Statement of Policy on Colonial Affairs" presented at the 1954 Labour Party Conference, would have been considered a notable advance by colonials. Today, were the subject less serious, we would be inclined to yawn at these all too familiar promises.

Allowing that a policy statement cannot be too precise, the serious colonial situation surely calls for a more definite indication of how, and when, this policy is to become effective. Neither are we reassured by the fact that so much in the statement is at variance with the actual behaviour of the Labour Party both in and out of office.

The Statement tells us "as soon as development of each territory makes it practicable" arrangements for the transfer of power would be made between the Government and responsible leaders of each territory. That sounds fine, but it fails to explain how this development is to be measured, and what is the target set us. At a recent meeting, despite several questions, I could not get Mr. James Griffiths, the ex-Labour Colonial Secretary, to explain what is the test for self-government.

COLONIAL POVERTY

On poverty and backwardness, the statement says "these conditions spring primarily from natural sources, particularly in the tropics". What makes the tropics a special place for bad conditions? Since when od these conditions spring from natural sources? Such conditions obtained in Britain less than 50 years ago. To the founders of the Labour Party, poverty and backwardness were the products of capitalism, and not inherent in a people or an area.

Most observers agree that the chief cause of colonial poverty is that very little of the wealth produced remains behind. It is heartening to read therefore that "steps should be taken by taxation and other measures to ensure that more of the wealth of the colonies is retained in the territories for the benefit of their inhabtiants". But steps **must** be taken, not should. The Labour Party must state clearly that the rate of exploitation and profit extraction will be severely limited.

THEIR RECORD

What is clearest in the mist of words is that the practice of the Labour Party has been contrary to the policy statement. Here are some examples.

The Labour Party avows its pride in the part played by the Malayan Trade Unions in constitutional advancement and inter-racial co-operation, and will help to encourage them. Yet the war in Malaya resulted from the outlawing of the chief trade unions in Malaya. Are the trade unions good only when they support employers and remain docile when living standards are pushed down?

Take another case. A government was elected in British Guiana, and when it attempted to put its election programme into effect—a programme not nearly as far-reaching as Labour's 1945—it was thrown out, the constitution torn up, and the Guianese disenfranchised indefinitely. What did the Labour opposition do? They sided with the Tory Colonial Secretary, and James Griffiths, the ex-Labour Colonial Secretary, speaking for Labour, said that he would have done the same. Further, the Executive of the Labour Party refused the leaders of the deposed government a hearing and bade its constituency parties to do the same.

Again, Labour has been stragely silent on the proposed West Indian federation, when it is well known that the federal constitution is a backward step for Jamaica, and that there is no autonomy for the federation. The five main branches of government including foreign affairs, finance and defence rest with the British Parliament, and in any case the Governor-General is given the power "to reserve any Bill for H.M. pleasure."

WANT NEW POLICY

Reference is made to consulting and working with the peoples of colonial territories, but in the absence of an explanation as to how this will be done we can only go by precedent. In the post-war Labour Government, Mr. Creech-Jones, as Colonial Secretary, called colonial leaders to London to **tell them what he** intended to do. Will that be the form of future consultation?

What we need to see is a colonial policy which considers the interests of colonials.

[In the next issue, Y. Hosein will outline an alternative policy for the colonies.]

Big Business from p.1

and admiration of a great Jamaican." Full page ads. were also taken by A. Issas, the Ariguanabo Textile Mills and by the Caribbean Cement Company.

A victory for the P.N.P. is certain but it will be essentially an expression of the people's disgust of ten years of corrupt Bustamante rule.

In the constituencies where the People's Freedom Movement is standing candidates and an alternative to the weak line of the P.N.P. leaders is provided the people readily accept it. In these two constituencies, the P.N.P. have now been reduced to telling the people that "if the P.N.P. isn't returned it must be Labour"; in other words they should not vote for the People's Candidate.

TRADE UNIONS IN GUIANA
— inspiring article by Ashton Chase in next issue of Caribbean News

'We must stop buying dear and selling cheap to Britain'

FERDINAND SMITH, President of the Jamaica Federation of Trade Unions, gave his views on the general elections in an interview with the Editor of "Caribbean News". These questions were put to Mr. Smith two weeks before the elections actually took place, while he was in London.

Q. Who do you think will win the elections?

A. General opinion has it that the People's National Party led by Norman Manley will win, and personally I also believe the P.N.P. will win.

Q. Why then do you think Bustamante has slipped behind in the voters' confidence?

A. Bustamante's Labour Party is really a one-man party, and Busta has been increasingly boosting the capitalist system and championing the British rulers, and the people resent this because these are the people who are responsible for the growing crisis of poverty and unemployment. He has also lost support because of the repressive measures his government has instituted and his attack on progressives.

Q. What are the differences between these two major parties?

A. There is no difference between them. Both are demagogic. Busta's Labour Party are the Conservatives and Manley's P.N.P. are Her Majesty's loyal opposition. The P.N.P. offers no alternative policy.

Progressive policy

Q. Does that mean that voters will not be presented with an alternative policy in the elections?

A. No, some voters will have a chance to support a completely progressive policy through the People's Freedom Movement. It's programme first of all calls for independence for Jamaica. But to give you some idea of the immediate points in the programme, for example, we would carry out a progressive policy with regard to the land.

We would acquire and reclaim unused land and parcel it out to small settlers, and to make this a reality we would build roads to make remote land areas accessible to the market. This question of land is a key issue in Jamaica.

Further we would start a system of unemployment insurance. Where the money is to come from? — By increasing the royalty on bauxite of which we have 90 per cent. of world deposits. At the moment Jamaica is getting one shilling a ton for bauxite extracted by foreign companies, when bauxite sells on the world market at £3 a ton.

We would increase excess profits tax, and tax on profits by absentee landlords. At present we buy dear and sell cheap to Britain. The P.F.M. programme would change this policy to the benefit of Jamaicans.

These are just a few of the points in our programme.

Building a base

Q. Who are the P.F.M. candidates?

A. We are putting up two candidates, and supporting an independent. One of them is Lascelles Murray (West Hanover), a school teacher; the other is Clifford Gordon (N.E. St. Elizabeth), a carpenter. The independent we are supporting is R. O. Gordon (W. St. Thomas).

Q. Why is the People's Freedom Movement putting up only two candidates?

A. Based on its general prestige and trade union backing, the P.F.M. could have stood several more candidates, but because of lack of financial resources it could not do so, and we could not spread the little money we had too thin.

Q. What good do you think will come of putting up these candidates?

A. Putting up these two candidates championing a progressive working class policy. has already forced both the P.N.P. and J.L.P. to mouth the demagogy of mild socialism.

But apart from these immediate results, by taking part in elections this year even on a small scale will lay the basis for creating a real people's party based on labour. We call the movement the 5-year plan— to prepare for general elections in 1959. Meanwhile we intend to go vigorously into parochial elections.

Q. What of Ken Hill and the N.L.P.?

A. Ken Hill's party exists only in Western Kingston—his own constituency. He has played around with Busta, but Busta has dropped him. I think he will be defeated.

Q. What are your perspectives for the future of the movement?

A. We feel confident in our ability to change the undemocratic basis of the trade union movement in our country. We will work for democratic trade unionism based on the workers' control of their leaders, from the bottom up(instead of the opposite as exists now. The masses should feel that their leaders are part of them, the servants of the workers who take counsel with them and carry out their wishes. This system can be seen for example in the growth of the unemployed workers organisation.

Give it support

Q. In conclusion. do you have any message you want to convey to the readers of our paper?

A. Yes. I would like to appeal to Jamaicans and all West Indians, no matter what separate territory they originate in, that their individual support is necessary for the success of their country, and that they should contribute in whatever way they can for the achievement of the goal—independence for the West Indies.

Churning Out the Money

By OUR FINANCIAL WIZARD

Trinidad Sugar

AS the international sugar cartels tighten, West Indians nearly wholly in the service of King Sugar are bearing the real burden. The directors report that profits have fallen to £7,569, after they had written off all charges including capital equipment 'depreciation'. This term is used to explain a sum of money that Company Directors are permitted to offset against their companies' income, allegedly for purchasing replacements in due course. What a story to tell to many sugar factory employees?

The ANTIGUA SUGAR FACTORY and ST. KITTS (LONDON) SUGAR also reported on their accounts for the year ending August 31st. The directors, Moody-Stuart, Wenham, du Boison and Sir Alen Burns can still smile; on the one hand in Antigua they report a nett loss of £19,774, althought their current assets are as high as £311,000, plus cash of £71,000 and a stack of sugar and mollasses at an estimated selling price of £39,000.

Alternatively, ST. KITTS, **doubled** their profits over last year up to £41,442. Whow! Here they put away £125,000 to a General Revenue and still carried forward a balance of £7,816.

Sugar is still a surfeit for us in the West Indies, but how sweet for some people!

God bless . . .

IN the Winter Review (1954) of British Colonies, the Washington correspondent of the "Times" reported that Lord Hemingford "was told in all seriousness at one meeting attended by influential Washingtonians that Great Britain should revise her **liberalisation** policy . . . because her territories provided a great source of material wealth which was needed by the Anglo-American partnership in the fight against Communism."

So when West Indians shout: God bless America! one knows just what that means.

Gliksten

GUIANA, Guatemala and Gliksten!

Gliksten?

That's the big boy in British Honduras, Mr. S. G. Gliksten, timber merchant, Managing Director of J. GLIKSTEN & SONS, LTD. Registered in London, he reported that profits from his group was £628,831, that is an increase of £68,300 over last year.

Up at Mango Creek he is placing a new plainning-mill to finish off what is shed from concessions. On the Gold Coast, too, he's up to the same ideas, but he is not yet satisfied for he states with regret that his "operation in British Honduras, although profitable, were not up to expectation . . . "

This is our fight too

says RODDY ATHERLEY

AT the end of October last year I attended the "British Congress for World Security" as a delegate from the Caribbean Labour Congress (L.B.) and now endeavour to pass on to my fellow West Indians my impressions of the Congress.

The main object of the Congress was to report on, and develop to a much higher and broader plane the fight for Peace. against German rearmament, Asian security and prohibition of atomic weapons, thus establishing the necessary conditions for the peaceful co-existence of all nations.

The manner in which the business of the Congress was conducted was an eye-opener to me, and those responsible should be commended.

The session was attended by 633 delegates plus observers. Over 200 of these were official delegates from Labour Parties, Trade Unions and Co-operative organisations. There were also 200 delegates from 96 Peace Committees; messages were received from prominent Peace fighters in Europe, America. Asia, South America, and Egypt.

The C.L.C. (L.B.) was the only colonial organisation with representatives; there were observers and delegates from the Kenya Committee, and one observer from Liverpool spoke on behalf of the African peoples.

These were all warmly applauded, they brought home to the Congress the attitude of hte Colonial peoples on peace, the ending of the wars in Malaya and Kenya, peace in Europe and peace in the Colonies as well, our own contribution to the world fight, and the connection of the struggle for National Independence and that of Peace.

Guided Missiles

Sometimes West Indians are too complacent on this question of Peace, we fail to see its importance. Peace is important to us directly because we are human beings and in the second instance because we are colonials.

In this age of nuclear warfare and atom bombs our very existence is threatened in the event of a third world war. American guided missiles stations in St. Lucia, Turks and Caicos Islands and Trinidad with air and naval bases in B.G., Grenada, Jamaica, are n illustration to those who think we'll be "safe".

Our fight for National Independence does not contradict our struggle for Peace, on the contrary, it is one and the same. The Imperialist nations—America, Britain and France must resort to vast armament expenditures in order to solve their own internal economic problems inherent in the capitalist system.

Any attempt by the Colonial peoples to throw off the Imperialist blood suckers meets with brutal repression; when the people in the Metropolitan countries resist further reduction in their living standards the "Soviet threat" is presented.

By actively supporting the Peace movement, and always paying attention to all questions of Peace, we strengthen our own movement and weaken the imperialists, mad generals and frightened politicians who, if they had their way, would hurl us all to destruction. The mass of people in the last instance have the final word, we can stop them and must.

Truculent Bosses

TRINIDAD — January 20th.

FOLLOWING the recent successful struggle by workers in the corporation electricity board, telephone workers decided on strike action for Tuesday, January 25th.

The employers, Trinidad Consolidated Telephone Company, have refused to meet the union, alleging that the President, Simeon Collymore, acted dishonestly on the job.

The telephone workers formerly belonged to the Federated Workers' Trade Union but due to dissatisfaction with the leadership broke away and since then were enticed to I.C.F.T.U. affiliation.

This recent flash of militancy has been a big surprise to the I.C.F.T.U. splitters.

LATEST NEWS: The Oilfield Employers' Association of Trinidad has rejected Oilfield Workers' Trade Union demand for a wage increase. Leaders told the employers that it was not they, but the workers who were demanding the increase and decided to report back to them immediately.

THE DANCING YEAR

ON Saturday, 1st January, 1955, at the Royal Hotel, the Caribbean Labour Congress held the first of their series of dances for 1955. The hall was packed to capacity with Coloured and Whites, happily enjoying themselves to the Super Rhythms of Ginger Johnson's band. Many West Indians who had just arrived in England, were full of praise and this should specially be a feather in the cap of the Social Committee of the C.L.C. whose undaunted efforts made the success of this dance possible.

Lepers Strike

TRINIDAD: A furore was created when Dr. M. G. Corcos, an English doctor in charge of the leprosarium at Chacachacare, allowed 160 lepers to spend the Christmas holiday on the mainland, mixing with the rest of the population. The doctor was removed from his post, but when his patients got the news they went on strike calling for the reinstatement of their doctor.

They have also sent petition to the Colonial Secretary. Police were called in and twelve leaders have been kept under police protection.

Dr. Corcos is known to have progressive views on the treatment of leprosy and was trying to build up his patients' morale. Both he and his wife have danced with lepers at parties.

Baby Boy

Congratulations this month go to Olive and Vass Jackson on the birth of their first baby—a boy of 7 lbs. 1 oz., on January 12th. Already two weeks' old the little tot is doing fine, and Mummy and Daddy are both wild over the beautiful creature.

for SUBSCRIBERS

ANNUALLY: 6/- per year, post free

all over the world

AIR RATES: 12/- per year, post free

Write

Circulation,
CARIBBEAN NEWS,
3 Robert Street, London, N.W.1.

Colonial Youth Day

ON the 21st of February, 1946, the Indian sailors of the British Indian Navy revolted against British colonial policy. Since that day this date has been used as the traditional demonstration by all those who support the struggle against colonialism.

Guiana is a shinning example where the youth played a prominent part in, constitutionally mind you, telling the imperialists where to get off. West Indian youth are now in the forefront in the struggle for National liberation.

The British Government by the usual strong arm methods are trying to impede our progress. The attempt however is in vain. No longer are we satisfied to see the wealth of our native lands worked in the interest of a few overseas bigshots. No longer are we satisfied to accept meagre wages for work when or if obtainable. No longer are we going to sit idly aside and be misled by politicians such as Grantley Adams, Gomes, Manley or Bustamante.

In our struggle we shall demand the right to develop our own economy and culture. We shall demand guaranteed work, full wages, proper medical facilities, and educational opportunities.

The struggle for independence, as history has taught, is no easy one. Martin Carter, West Indian people's poet expressed our undaunted spirits by these lines:—

"Although you come in thousands from the sea
Although you walk like locusts in the streets
Although you point your gun straight at my heart
I clench my fists above my head; I sing a song of
FREEDOM."

FESTIVAL

The Youth Festival for Peace and Friendship is being held in Warsaw, Poland this year from July 31st to August 14th. Entire cost will be £28. All West Indians wishing to go or to get more information should write to the Youth Organiser, C.L.C., 3, Robert Street, N.W.1.

BARRY'S

London's Leading Coloured Photographers

Let us photograph your

Weddings **Parties**
Groups **Babies**

Write **Barry's**
10, Bergholt Crescent, London, N.16

Hedley Gets Coaching Job

GEORGE HEADLEY is supposed to arrive early this year in Jamaica to take the post of official cricket coach. The appointment was approved by the Jamaica House of Representatives.

The post carries an annual salary of £1,500.

This is the second sports appointment made by the Government. The first one was Herb Backenly. The

TALKING POINTS ON SPORT
by Trevor Carter

Jamaica Football Association is now making plans to acquire Lindy Delapena as official island football coach. Lindy is now a soccer professional in England.

GOMEZ TO RETIRE

Gerry Gomez, 35-year old Trinidad-born West Indian International all-rounder, is to retire shortly from cricket for business reasons, states our Trinidad correspondent.

Gerry, rated as one of the best all-rounders in the world, will be greatly missed by Trinidad when they come up against the Jamaica XI later this year.

POMPEY MEETS DAWSON

Nottingham Ice Stadium and January 21st would be the place and date of the return match between Yolande Pompey (Trinidad) and the American Bobby Dawson who is now campaigning in France.

Pompey should turn the tables this time, because, although suffering from a damaged hand in the previous fight, Dawson was only able to beat him by a very narrow margin.

ADVERTISEMENT RATES
7/6 per column-inch
15% discount for 6 consecutive ads.
Send to Advertisement Dept.
3 Robert Street, N.W.1.

TWO
CARNIVAL DANCES

Saturday, 26th. February
LAMBETH TOWN HALL
Brixton Hill, S.W.2
Buses: 2, 3, 4a, 35, 35a, 37, 59, 59a, 118, 133, 159
with GINGER JOHNSON'S
Latin-American Rhythm

* * *

Saturday, 19th. March
ROYAL HOTEL
Woburn Place Tube: Russell Square
Top Brass Band

* * *

Dancing 7-30 till midnight
Bar Buffet Lots of Fun
Tickets at Door:
Members (with cards) 4/- Guests 5/-
Organisers: Caribbean Labour Congress L.B.

Caribbean News
Monthly Newspaper
obtainable from
CENTRAL BOOKS LTD
2 Parton Street, W.C.1.

Published by R. Chandisingh, 30, Cambridge St., S.W.1.
X-Press Print, 1, Felixstowe Road, N.W.10.